

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,598,336 to Kume et al. Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 are allowable.

In this Amendment, Applicant amends independent claims 1, 6, and 8 to incorporate the recitations of allowable claims 4, 7, and 11, respectively. Applicant also cancels claims 4, 7, and 11, without prejudice or disclaimer, accordingly.

As such, Applicant submits that the Application is in condition for allowance, including pending claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-10.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conversation might otherwise advance prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 03-1129.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Woods", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael L. Woods
Registration No. 50,811
Caterpillar Inc.

Telephone: (309) 675-4280
Facsimile: (309) 675-1236